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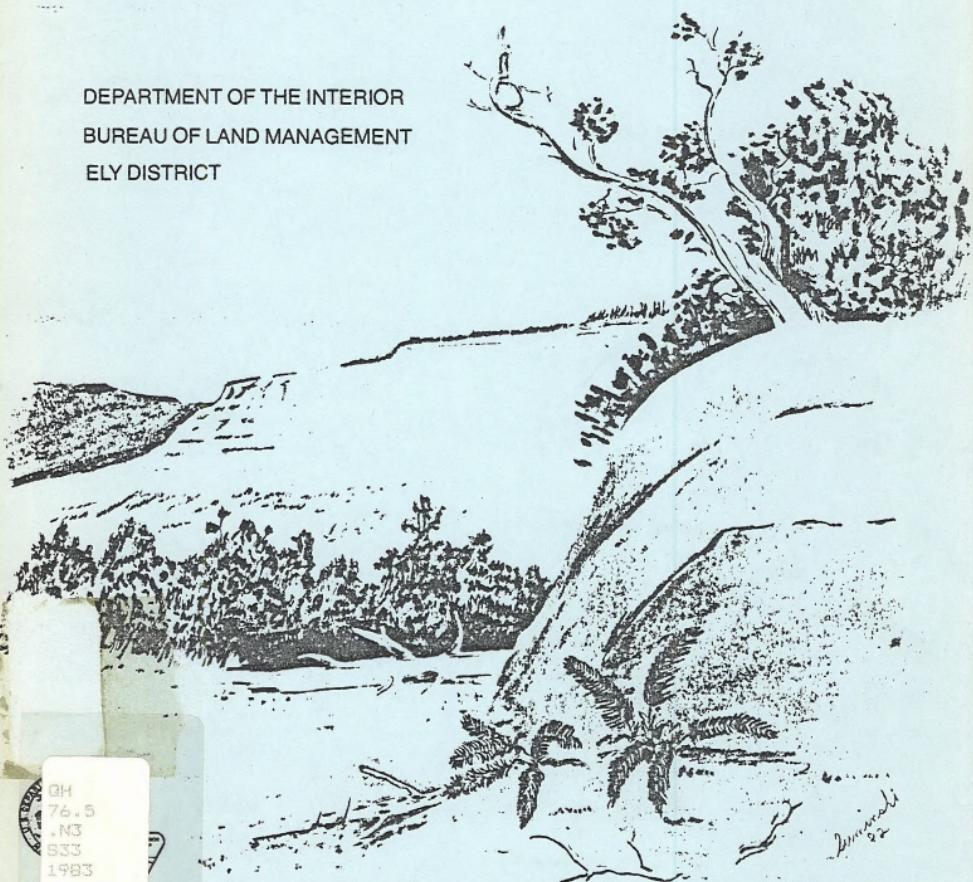
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HELL RESOURCE AREA

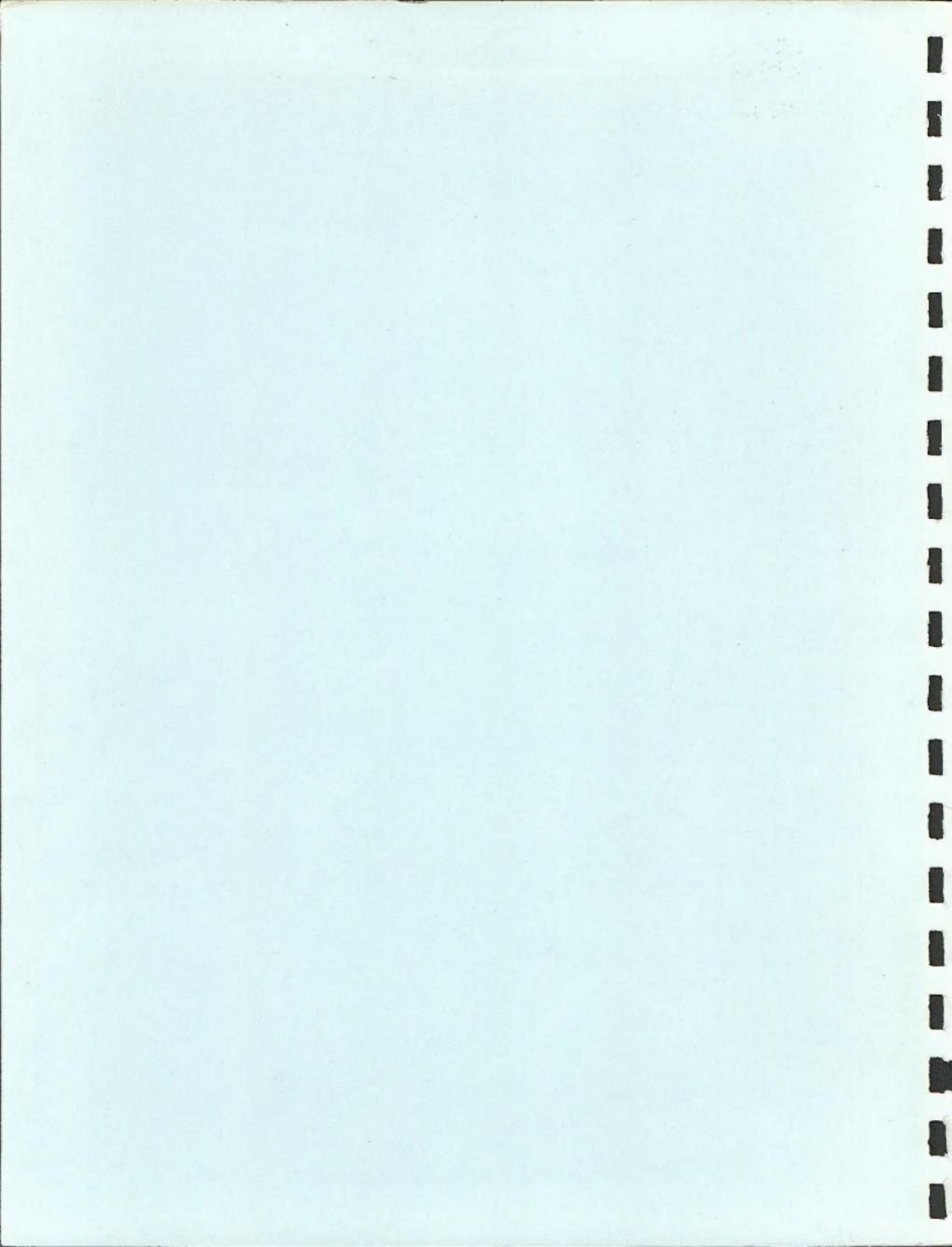
SUMMARY

WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELY DISTRICT



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SUMMARY

PURPOSE

Federal law requires the Bureau of Land Management to study all areas of public land with wilderness characteristics to determine the suitability of each for designation as wilderness. In the Shell Resource Area, eight areas with wilderness characteristics (totalling 424,583 acres) have been identified. This Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement examines the suitability of each of these wilderness study areas (WSAs), and studies the impacts to the environment of designating five different combinations of areas as wilderness. This study will be used by the decision-makers in making wilderness recommendations and decisions.

ISSUE

Each WSA possesses wilderness values, but each also contains other resource values, the development or extraction of which would be detrimental to wilderness values. A determination must be made as to which resource an area would be better used for, the wilderness resource or the competing resource(s). This is the main issue to be resolved.

If it is determined that the "highest and best use" of an area is as wilderness, then the area will be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. If it is determined that a use which is incompatible with the wilderness resource is the highest and best use, then the area will be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

ALTERNATIVES

The five different combinations of areas that are studied range from a No Wilderness Alternative to an All Wilderness Alternative (see Table S-1). Implementation of the No Wilderness Alternative will result in no wilderness designations, and the All Wilderness Alternative will result in designation of all eight WSAs as wilderness. A Limited Wilderness Alternative recommends for wilderness only the areas with the highest wilderness values, lowest conflicts

with other resources, and most manageable boundaries. A Wilderness Emphasis Alternative recommends for wilderness designation all areas with wilderness values, excluding only the areas with the greatest manageability problems and the highest conflicts with other resources.

The Preferred Alternative is an alternative that eliminates most conflicts while recommending for designation most manageable areas with good wilderness values. It recommends as suitable portions of the Far South Egans, Parsnip Peak, Worthington Mountains, and Weepah Spring WSAs, and the entire White Rock Range WSA. It recommends as unsuitable the Mount Grafton, Fortification Range, and Table Mountain WSAs.

TABLE S-1

AREAS AND ACRES RECOMMENDED
SUITABLE FOR DESIGNATION, BY
ALTERNATIVE

	WSAs RECOMMENDED SUITABLE	ACRES RECOMMENDED SUITABLE
ALL WILDERNESS	8 (ENTIRE)	424,583
WILDERNESS EMPHASIS	6 (PARTIAL) 1 (ENTIRE)	288,446
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	4 (PARTIAL) 1 (ENTIRE)	188,707
LIMITED WILDERNESS	4 (PARTIAL)	114,023
NO WILDERNESS	0	0

SCOPING

A public scoping period was held from July 23 to September 10, 1982 during which time all interested persons were invited to comment on the alternatives developed for the EIS. As a result of comments received,

TABLE S-2: IMPACTS SUMMARY

	Minerals/Energy	Wilderness	Range	Wildlife	Recreation/ Visual Resources
ALL WILDERNESS	Mineral potential removed: 27.3% high, 6.8% medium, 5.6% speculative.	6 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected NSI	6 proposed range improvements dis- allowed	Habitat preserved Restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Beneficial impact to primitive and semi primitive recreation
	O/G potential removed: 1.3% high, 3% medium, 9.4% speculative		Future projects may be disallowed		Protection of visual resources
	Geothermal potential removed: 12.8% SAI		Costs may increase NSI		NSI
WILDERNESS EMPHASIS	Mineral potential removed: 9% high, 1.5% medium, 5.2% speculative	6 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected SBI	Same as All Wil- derness except future projects Impacted less NSI	Habitat preserved Restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Same as All Wilderess SBI
	O/G potential removed: .1% high, 1.4% medium, .8% speculative				
	Geothermal potential removed: 6.7% SAI				
PREFERRED	Mineral potential removed: 5.3% high, .7% medium, 3.4%. speculative	4 WSA's protected 2 WSAs unaffected 2 WSAs lose pro- tection SAI and SBI	Same as All Wil- derness except future projects Im- pacted less NSI	Some habitat preserved, some lost Some habitat pre- served, some lost Some restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Beneficial impacts to primitive and semi primitive recreation in suit- able areas, adverse in unsuitable areas NSI
	O/G potential removed: 0% high, .8% medium, .8% speculative				
	Geothermal potential removed: 1% SAI				Protection of visual resources
LIMITED WILDERNESS	Mineral potential removed: 3.5% high, .0% medium, 2% speculative	2 WSAs protected 2 WSAs unaffected 3 WSAs lose pro- tection 1 WSA Impaired even though suit- able SAI and SBI	3 proposed range improvements disallowed Future projects may be disallowed Costs may increase NSI	Most habitat lost, some pre- served Few restrictions on habitat conver- sion for Herd #23 NSI	Adverse impacts to primitive and semi- primitive recreation in unsuitable areas, beneficial impacts in suitable areas NSI
	O/G potential removed: 0% high, .8% medium, .0% speculative				
	Geothermal potential removed: .4% NSI				Some protection of visual resources SBI
NO WILDERNESS	No impacts	6 WSAs lose pro- tection 2 WSAs unaffected SAI	No impacts	Habitat protec- tion lost No restrictions on habitat conversion, NSI	Adverse impacts to primitive and semi primitive recreation
					Adverse impacts to visual resources NSI

Forestry	Lands	Cultural Resources	Soil/Water	Wild Horses	Social Attitudes	Economic Impacts
22% of man- ageable woodland in Schell RA removed	Communication sites disallowed in 4 WSAs with potential	Beneficial and adverse general im- pacts. Specific beneficial	Beneficial impacts by limiting disturbance NSI	Slight bene- ficial impact- preserves habitat and free roaming nature NSI	Strong local opposition-strong con- servation support NSI	Minor benefi- cial impacts to trades and services NSI
Some pro- tection of special resources SAI	Conflicts with pro- posed rail corridor in Grafton NSI	Impacts in Worthington, NSI				Minor adverse Impacts to livestock, mining and state revenues NSI
10% of man- ageable wood- land in Schell RA removed	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Beneficial impacts by limiting dis- turbance in suitable areas, adverse in unsuitable NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Local oppo- sition-strong con- servation support NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI
Some pro- tection of special resources NSI						
7% of man- ageable woodland in Schell RA re- moved	Communication sites disallowed in 2 WSAs with poten- tial NSI	Same as All Wilderness NSI	Same as Wilderness Emphasis-fewer bene- ficial impacts NSI	Same as All Wilderness to lesser extent NSI	Mixed support NSI	Minor benefi- cial impacts to trades and services NSI
Some pro- tection of special resources NSI						Very minor adverse impact to livestock, mining and state revenues NSI
5% of man- ageable wood- land in Schell RA removed	Communication sites disallowed in 1 WSA with poten- tial NSI	Beneficial and adverse general im- pacts. Specific ad- verse im- pacts in Worthington, NSI	Same as Wilderness Emphasis-fewer bene- ficial impacts NSI	Few bene- ficial im- pacts NSI	Mixed local support-conservation opposition NSI	Same as Pre- ferred NSI
Some pro- tection of special resources NSI						
No Impacts	No Impacts	Same as Limited Wil- derness NSI	Minor adverse Impacts from Increased disturbance NSI	No Impacts	Mixed local support-strong con- servation opposition NSI	No Impacts

NSI = No Significant Impacts
 SAI = Significant Adverse Impacts
 SBI = Significant Beneficial Impacts

ALL WILDERNESS

WILDERNESS EMPHASIS

PREFERRED

LIMITED WILDERNESS

NO WILDERNESS

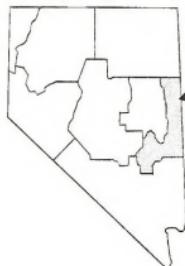


the Wilderness Emphasis Alternative was formulated and included for study.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

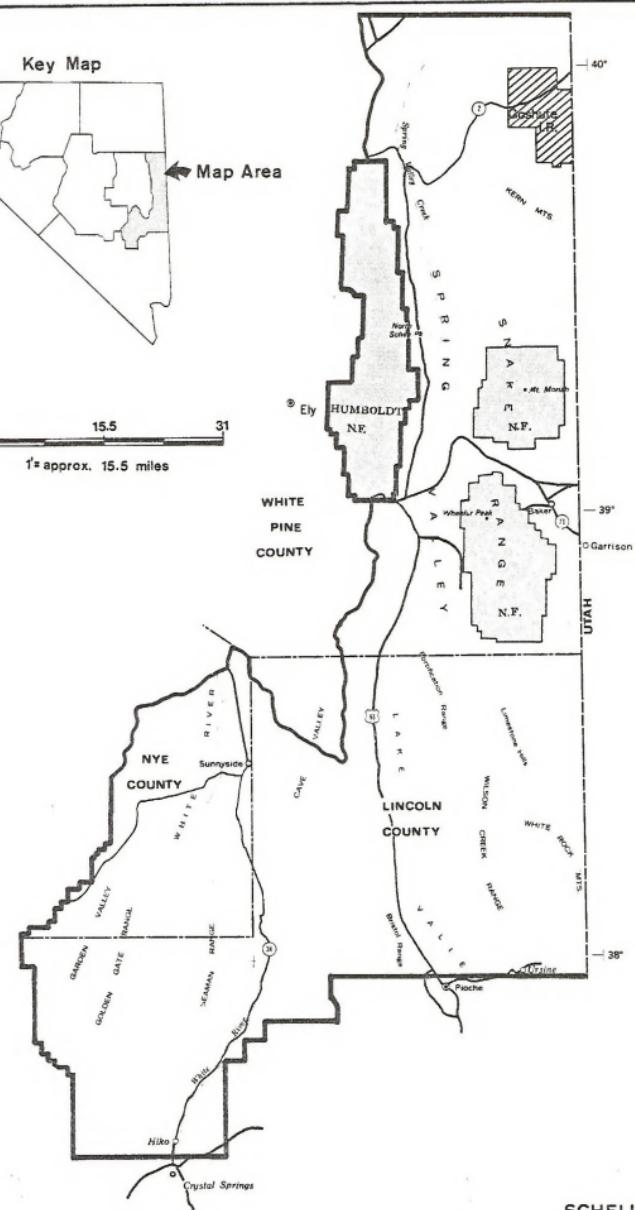
This study concludes that there will be no significant impacts to range, recreation, cultural resources, wildlife, wild horses, soil, water, air, or lands in any alternative. Additionally, there will be no significant economic or social impacts. Significant impacts will occur to forestry, energy and minerals, wilderness and visual resources in the different alternatives as described in Table S-2.

Key Map



Map Area

0 15.5 31
1= approx. 15.5 miles



Availability of Draft
Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be sent to everyone who requests a copy and their substantive comments will be treated in a comments and responses section of the Preliminary Final EIS.

Copies of the DEIS will be available for review at the following offices and libraries (* indicates address to write for copies of the EIS).

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICES

Office of Public Affairs, BLM
18th and C Streets
Washington, D.C. 20240

Nevada State Office
300 Booth Street
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

Battle Mountain District Office
North 2nd and South Scott Streets
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

Caliente Resource Area Office
Highway 93 South
Caliente, Nevada 89008

Carson City District Office
1050 E. Williams Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Elko District Office
2002 Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

Ely District Office*
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

Las Vegas District Office
4765 West Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Tonopah Resource Area Office
Building 102 Military Circle
Tonopah, Nevada 89049

Winnemucca District Office
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Utah State Office, BLM
136 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Cedar City District Office, BLM
1579 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 729
Cedar City, Utah 84720

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Pioche, Nevada 89043

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
James R. Dickinson Library
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154

University of Nevada, Reno
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Reno, Nevada 89507

HEARINGS

Public hearings will be held on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Reno, Nevada on May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Hotel; Ely, Nevada on May 17 at 7:00 p.m. In the Bristlecone Convention Center; and Pioche, Nevada on May 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln County Courthouse.

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Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

BORROWER*

DH 76-5 NIS 833 1983

Schell Resource Area

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